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Review

The French Terror

The Martyrdom of the German
People on the Rhine and Ruhr

(From Official Documents and Reports)

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Reprinted from the "*Süddeutsche Monatshefte*",
April 1923

Published by R. Oldenbourg, Munich

Printed by August Scherl G. m. b. H., Berlin SW 68

„Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht“

The French Terror

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A Foreword.

The student of national politics and popular psychology stands confronted at present by a riddle, a riddle more difficult than many presented by the war. How does it happen that after the atrocities of which Germany was declared guilty in war-time having been proved baseless fabrications, slanders and incendiary propaganda in nearly every instance, the actual, verifiable and even undisputed atrocities committed by France in the Ruhr district in the midst of peace, have fallen practically upon deaf ears? In the one instance, in the case of the Lie, universal moral indignation amounting to frenzy—in the other, in the case of the Truth, apathy, indifference, silence, at best a lukewarm sympathy.

The reason is to be sought, no doubt, partly in the fact that the Lie itself was organized upon the most extensive scale, that it pervaded the very air, the mental food and the environment of the peoples, that everything,—fabulous means, world-wide enterprises, unscrupulous intellects and even genius, were mobilized towards the one end—the stigmatizing of Germany as a monster among nations, and *per contra*, the beatification of the Entente as the seraphic champion of humanity, law and civilization. The two poisons went deep, the twofold hypnosis, even after the awakening, still leaves the brain and heart befuddled. In addition, there is the natural reaction to the hysterical excitement of the war, and the silence and inaction of the mighty machinery which lashed up the emotions of millions. Propaganda, to be sure, is still at work; for example, millions of francs are being poured into America for the purpose of representing French outrages in the Ruhr as the mild and tolerant, almost loving procedure of a magnanimous creditor against a wicked and dangerous delinquent.

The desultory and tentative efforts of the Germans to counteract this new campaign of calumny and misrepresentation are hampered by two factors—lack of means and what must be recognized as a congenital inability of the German to cope with the propaganda that is directed against him. This inability, however, is, so to speak, forced upon him by the sinister character of this hostile propaganda, and his aversion to adopting the same means and methods. In other words, that "*Sittlichkeit*" of the German people of which Lord Haldane made so much just before the war, and which he held up for the emulation of his own people, still proves, in spite of the demoralization caused by the war and the peace, a great handicap to German efforts to combat falsehood.

The German believes in the ultimate triumph of truth, and it is in accordance with his nature that he should prefer to appeal to the intellect rather, than to the emotions. This tendency has from the very beginning characterized German attempts to present the facts, for it was assumed by the official as well as the private German that "the facts would suffice". This accounts also for the dullness and dryness of nearly everything that has been denounced as "German propaganda". It was usually the work of scholars and officials, badly translated. We foreigners who felt and knew that the German cause and the German people were being unjustly dealt with, hoped that the German government would take a hint from the tactics of its enemies, and employ artists, literary men and journalists.

This criticism does not apply to the present booklet. Herr von Stülpnagel's simple and matter-of-fact compilation of actual affidavits and protocols, given without alteration or comment, and even without mentioning individual cases of particular ferocity and heinousness (such as the Droste case in Essen), is one of the most damning and unanswerable indictments of rabid fear, hate, and greed-inspired militarism and Poincaréism which it is possible to imagine. Here is a mirror of French behaviour on the Ruhr, of atrocities and outrages committed upon a defenceless, peaceful and hard-working population, not in time of war but now, in time of so-called peace, which might well make humanity blush for humanity, and for its folly in believing France to be a nation of Chevalier Bayards, and Germany a nation of "Huns". The question that was raised by a prominent German publicist and parliamentarian, Dr. Müller-Meiningen, at the beginning of the war: "*Who are the Huns?*" is answered here. And it is answered by the French, and by French acts. For acts, in spite of all propaganda and all the emanations of the poison press, still speak louder than words.

R. L. O.

Introduction.

The reports in the daily press have in some degree already informed the public as to the means which the French occupation troops which have invaded the Ruhr district, in the very midst of peace and in violation of all international law, are employing to bully and oppress the levelheaded and industrious population of this busy region.

The world may obtain a clear presentment of the sufferings of the unfortunate inhabitants, of the way in which they are flouted and crushed under the boot-heel of French militarism through the official reports and sworn affidavits quoted in the following pages; they speak for themselves. The descriptions offer a full guarantee for their authenticity. Solitary instances of atrocities, however heinous they may have been, have not been quoted. The *typical alone* has been emphasized. In judging these acts the fact must be kept in mind that the excesses of the French-Belgian occupation troops have *not* taken place under the pressure of war-psychosis nor in a country which is in a regular state of war, but that these are deeds committed by troops which, according to Poincaré's own words, have entered the Ruhr district with the peaceful intention of protecting the French-Belgian Commission of Engineers!

There is system in this apparent madness and the final goal of this system is nothing else than the provocation of the population. In view of these continued provocations, the extraordinary self-discipline of the people of the Ruhr must arouse the greatest admiration. In combating the brute force of French-Belgian militarism with such unparalleled patience and merely with the weapon of the Right, they know that this battle is being waged for the most precious inheritance a nation can possess:

The Preservation of its Liberty and its Independence!

In quoting these reports and sworn testimony, the names of witnesses, the numbers and marks of the documents and the signatures have for obvious reasons been omitted—for the present. *These details will be furnished at the proper time. It must, however, be expressly emphasized that these reports are all of an official nature and that the originals are to be found among the archives of the German government.*

Otto von Stülpnagel.

Terrorization of the Man in the Street by the Occupying Troops.

An Electrical Engineer by the name of H. reports:

"On the 26th of January, about a quarter to nine in the evening, we met fifteen French officers near the Hotel Kaiserhof at Treves. They took up the entire width of the street. We wanted to pass them to the left, trying to leave as much space as possible between them and ourselves. One of the officers gripped me by the throat and tried to throw me upon the ground, which he almost succeeded in doing. Another one of the officers knocked my hat off with his riding-crop. My companion was also maltreated by the officers."

Mr. B., a commercial traveller from Mainz, makes the following statement:

"On the 26th of January, at 4.30 p.m., I arrived at Treves from Mainz. In the Fleisch Strasse, just opposite the Main Post Office, we met a number of French officers—about fifteen. We were walking quietly in the middle of the street. Two of the officers stepped up to me and asked me what I wanted. I replied that I wanted to go to my hotel. All the officers thereupon crowded around me. I was hit over the head with a riding-crop by one of them; my hat was knocked off, and I received a second blow across the temple and forehead which began to bleed profusely. The last blow had been accompanied with the words: "Don't you see that we are officers?" I went to the police station immediately and asked the police officer for protection. The Chief Constable and some other policemen came with me at once and drew the attention of the French officers to the fact that such conduct could not be tolerated. The officers replied in a very insulting manner, saying: "Germany has lost the war and we are the victors! Go back to your station!"

P., a mechanic of Treves, makes the following statement:

"On the 26th of January, about 9.15 p.m., I was walking with a young lady past the corner of Feld and Brücken Strasse, where we were met by some twenty French officers, who likewise had several ladies with them. Behind these officers came four cavalry officers (Spahis). These pushed my companion and myself off the sidewalk into the street and began beating us with their riding-crops. I received several cuts over the head and my hat was knocked into the street. The young lady was also beaten with riding-crops."

German "Swine".

Mr. X., Town Councillor of Recklinghausen, makes the following sworn statement:

"I heard (on the 7th of February, 1923) one of the French officers say in French: "Let us go and throw these German swine out!" I told my friend that we had better leave. At this moment several officers with riding-whips came from the other room led by the officer who had made the above remark. This officer knocked my hat off my head. I left the room quickly through a side door, and gained the street."

Police-Lieutenant X. of Herne (Westphalia):

"On the 8th of February towards 1.30 p.m. I came off duty and was about to go home. In the Bahnhof Strasse, opposite the Passenger Station, a Frenchman called to me: "Salute!" The man came running toward me from the opposite side of the street and blocked my way. I replied that I was a German officer and would not salute a French officer. He answered that he was a French officer. He was in charge of the tank squad which was placed in front of the railway station and he said something in French to his men. Thereupon six Frenchmen pounced upon me while the man who had spoken to me first drew his pistol. I turned to walk away but I noticed that one of the Frenchmen who had jumped on me lifted his rifle. I was then knocked in the back with the butt of the rifle. While I was walking on I felt great pain in my back, my legs gave way, and I could barely drag myself away."

Mr. B., a tradesman of Treves, reported on the 26th of January, 1923:

"I had been walking on the sidewalk. Several French officers who were walking behind me, swore at me continuously, and finally flung me off the sidewalk saying: "The sidewalk is for officers; Germans have to walk in the street!" and "You German swine, if you dare complain to the general, we will knock-out hell of you!"

Mr. B., a business man of Treves, reports as follows:

"On the 26th of January, near the Kaierhof Hotel, we saw some fifteen French officers coming toward us. The officers belonged to different regiments. The officers walked in such a way that they formed a line right across the entire width of the street, thus blocking the street completely. We had been walking on the sidewalk. Without giving reasons, they ordered us to keep off the sidewalk; the only reason they gave was that they were officers. We obeyed the order straightway. One of us was seized by several officers; one of them knocked my friend upon the head so that his hat fell on the ground while another hit him across the face with his riding-crop."

W., a workman of Treves, reports:

"On the 26th of January I walked with my friend X. through the Brücken Strasse toward the Antoniusbrunnen. We both walked on the left hand sidewalk. Several French officers came from the opposite direction. One of the latter, who had been walking on the pavement, pulled my companion off the sidewalk, kicked him in the back, and hit him over the head with his riding-crop. My companion had given no cause whatever for being thus treated."

Germans Chased Through the Streets.

A note from the Official Report regarding the occurrences at Recklinghausen on the 7th and 8th of February, 1923:

"People standing or walking quietly in the streets, for instance when they were waiting for a tram, were struck with riding-whips by the French soldiery without the slightest provocation. French officers were very much to the fore in urging their men to maltreat the people. In some places, for example on Market Square, people were threatened with revolvers by French soldiers; they had to hold up their hands and submit to being searched. After being searched, though weapons were in no case found, they were driven on by blows and cuts from riding-crops. On Market Square and in the adjoining streets, harmless passers-by were driven backward and forward by tanks being rushed up and down the streets.

"These onslaughts upon people in the streets were continued until 11 o'clock in the evening. On one corner of the street several ladies who had come from the theatre and were waiting for a tram, were struck with riding-crops."

On the 8th of February, toward evening, the attacks on people in the streets were continued with even greater ferocity than before. The following is a typical case:

"Rather late in the evening a tramcar reached town from the direction of Sinsen; the majority of the passengers were workmen and miners coming home from work. As soon as the car stopped, a number of French soldiers rushed at it wildly and struck the passengers with riding-whips, driving everybody off the street. Not one of the passengers had given any provocation for such treatment.

These occurrences on the 7th and 8th leave no doubt whatever that the troops are systematically incited against the civilian population and that the actions of those two days were carefully premeditated. All attempts to call the attention of General Laignelot to the behaviour of the French officers and men, have hitherto been in vain."

The above account is supplemented by a Police Report from Recklinghausen, as follows:

"About 6.15 p.m. French occupation troops appeared and cleared the Market Square in the most brutal manner. Not satisfied with this, clearing squads consisting of one officer and ten men were sent through the streets of the town on the evening of the 7th of February, accompanied by tanks. Passers-by in the streets coming from their offices or places of business were proceeded against in the most ferocious manner. The French threatened individual men and women with revolvers, kicked them, knocked them down, and compelled them to run on ahead, regardless of age or sex. Shots were fired continuously. Also during the evening and the night from the 7th to the 8th of February French squads cleared the streets, this time even cavalry and patrols consisting of thirteen men, who struck peaceful citizens without provocation and rode them down. The squares were occupied by tanks. Numerous cases of ill-treatment of policemen and civilians were reported."

The above account may be supplemented by the following statement from an eye-witness:

Chief Railway Secretary X. of Recklinghausen testified on the 7th of February, 1923:

"By that time (7 p.m.) there was normal traffic in the streets and everything was quiet. Shortly after 9 p.m. a large crowd came suddenly down Breite Strasse from the north. The crowd scattered toward the Königswall and Herner Strasse. A troop of soldiers who were driving the crowd, swerved toward the Königswall and tried to penetrate into the Stadt Café. Behind the soldiers came a crowd of some twelve French officers, who pounced like maniacs upon the people standing at the corner of Herner Strasse and Königswall waiting for a tram. They swung riding-crops high over their heads. The people in front of me ran away, but I remained where I stood with my wife. Someone shouted at me: "Run, run!" At the same moment an officer struck me a fierce slash with his riding-crop across the face and the right cheek. At the same time another French officer hit me in the back so that I staggered."

Mr. W. of Recklinghausen makes the following statement regarding the occurrences on the 8th of February, 1923: "Although I was walking on the sidewalk the French soldiers rushed at me with lowered bayonets. I did not understand what they said. I told them I wanted to go home. They replied: "Nix, home!" One of the soldiers seized my walking-stick; when I did not want to give this up immediately, they struck me with fists and kicked me. They also hit me with the butts of their rifles on the arms and in the back.

On the 8th of February toward 8 p.m. I was obliged to cross the Königswall again. I was once more stopped at the point of the bayonet and driven into the doorway of a house. I had to hold up my hands and was searched. When the soldiers

tried to pull my watch out of my pocket, I instinctively lowered my hands for a moment, whereupon I was hit on the head with fists. The soldiers found a pair of cigar-nippers in my pocket which they took away, saying that I was not allowed to carry them."

E., a blacksmith of Recklinghausen, reports as follows:

"They held a revolver to my chest and dragged me to the Engelsburg (the local penitentiary). I was first searched and then beaten with riding-crops and rifle-butts, and kicked. Whilst I was being searched my clothes were completely torn."

Statement by the Chief Railway Clerk, Mr. X., of Recklinghausen:

"On Thursday evening I had to pass through the Kuniberti Strasse. We encountered a French patrol of some six soldiers. Suddenly one of the soldiers tripped me over his leg, bringing me down on the ground, and beat me. I then received a blow with the butt of the rifle against the left shoulder. When I was examined by my doctor, my shoulder was found to be dislocated."

Book-keeper A. of Recklinghausen: "On Wednesday, February 7th, about 7 p.m. I went home *via* the Kaiserwall. Four tanks accompanied by soldiers on foot came toward me. I tried to pass the line of soldiers who were taking up the entire width of the street. At this moment the officer in charge of the tanks rushed up to me and hit me several blows on the head with the knob of his riding-crop. Also the soldiers who accompanied the tank came up to me, about 7 to 8 men, and struck me with riding-crops and rubber-clubs. They did not desist until I fainted."

Mr. X., a municipal employé of Recklinghausen, states: "On the 7th of February I was arrested on Market Square. I first went over to the eastern side of Market Square, but French soldiers urged me across to the Althoff Department Store, calling at me: "Allez!" This order to walk on, I obeyed. A French captain was standing in front of the store and ordered the soldiers to arrest me. I was seized by three soldiers who immediately started beating, kicking, and hitting me with the butts of their rifles. I was dragged across the Market-place to the sentry in front of the Café Schwarz. The soldiers who arrested me tore my shirt and collar. They also kicked me and hit me with the butts of their rifles, whilst raining blows on my head. The first sentry handed me over to another in front of the Hotel Winkelmann, who maltreated me in the same manner."

Bestial Behaviour of French Officers.

Sergeant of Police A. of Recklinghausen: "On the 7th of February, on Market Square, I got into a crowd of French soldiers who kicked me and hit me with fists and the butts of their rifles. I received a blow in the small of my back so that I could scarcely breathe and had to lean up against a wall. The soldiers seemed to think that I wanted to resist and commenced beating me mercilessly. In Münster Strasse I saw twelve French soldiers driving two elderly gentlemen ahead of them with the butts of their rifles. Four French officers looked on calmly without interfering."

Outrages in Theatres, Cafés and Taverns.

The following is a sworn statement by Dr. X., Medical Practitioner, of Recklinghausen: "On the 7th of February, 1923, I went with my wife to the theatre to see "King Lear". We had seats in the center balcony near the left exit. Shortly after the first interval, a young girl—I believe she was one of the employees of the theatre—came rushing in, calling: They are coming!, or words to that effect. Just at this moment a number of French officers entered the balcony through the door on the left, singing and shouting. The performance was in progress when they entered, and

the theatre was dark. The first officer called repeatedly into the audience: "I am in a rage, go home!" In saying this, he waved his riding-crop about in a threatening attitude. He then went up to the balustrade and called to the audience in the pit to go home. There were three or four officers who had come in. I went to the cloak-room to get my things. Outside in the lobby there were ten officers standing in a row which one had to pass when leaving the theatre. I saw how several gentlemen had their hats knocked off with riding-crops. Some six more French officers were standing in the street, and these, I was told, had been driving away the people."

Mr. X., a manufacturer, makes the following statement:

"Shortly afterwards the officers came back into the theatre singing the "Marseillaise". There was quite a crowd of them and they shouted: "Get out, quick, quick!" Some of them rapped on the balustrade with their riding-crops and called to the audience in the pit to get out. Others went through the rows of the pit which had become empty, over to the other side of the balcony to force the people to leave the theatre by threatening them with riding-crops. When I left the theatre I noticed a whole row of officers in the corridor, a number of whom had riding-crops. The officers shouted: "*Allez, allez, hopp, hopp!*" On the street in front of the theatre a number of French officers were looking on. I saw one lady being shoved out the door by one of the officers."

Mr. F. of Recklinghausen states:

"On the 7th of February about 9 p.m. twenty-three French officers of the army of occupation suddenly rushed into the Café connected with the theatre. We heard them call out: "Get out at once!" Whilst we were hesitating a moment the officers swung their riding-crops over our heads; nearly every one of them carried one. We left the Café and went into the passage of a private house, where we could hear them sing the "Marseillaise" to the accompaniment of a piano. It could hardly be called singing,—they were bawling as though they were drunk. The officers then left the Café and went over to the theatre."

The Bochum Daily Newspapers, on 25th of January, contained the following notification of the 40th French Brigade:

By Order of the Commanding Officer ... pp. 2. It is forbidden to sell or to give away alcohol or alcoholic beverages to private soldiers of the French or allied armies.

The injunction referred to in par. 2 does not apply to officers and non-coms.

By Order of the General commanding the 40th French Inf. Div.

(sgd.) Mayral de Bourgon.

Mr. H. makes the following sworn statement regarding the incident in a restaurant in the Hattinger Strasse at Bochum on the 2nd of February, 1923:

"On the above date I had charge of the business in the absence of the proprietor. About. 7.30 p.m. three French soldiers came in and asked for drinks. I informed them through the waiter that I was not allowed to give them alcoholic drinks. Thereupon one of them went away and returned presently with about thirty armed soldiers. Among them was a corporal of the Weitmar ambulance. The whole crowd of them came around the bar and demanded to drink. Some of them spoke German and said they would break up everything if I did not comply. I told the corporal who spoke German fluently that even under these threats I could not give them anything to drink.

When the corporal had interpreted to the men what I had said, several of them drew their pistols and side-arms. One of them fired a shot into the wall opposite the bar. Others cut up the table-linen with their knives. Then one of the Frenchmen demanded a bottle of brandy. When I refused to give it to him, he threatened to run his knife into me. To the corporal who spoke German I explained again that I would not give the soldiers anything to drink. Then one of them put his revolver to my chest and pointed to the brandy-bottles. By signs with my hand I made it clear to him that he would not get any of them from me.

The corporal who spoke German explained to me that the soldiers would not leave the place until all the Germans had left. In order to avoid further trouble I asked the guests to leave the house which they did at once. Now also the Frenchmen left, but very reluctantly and under continuous threats. At the corner of Otto Strasse they fired four to five shots into the crowd. Soon afterwards a young man who had been shot through the arm, was brought into my place.

The soldier who had fired the shot in the room, and a few others, had been in the place repeatedly and had demanded drinks, but without getting any. Thus the whole trouble seemed to have been inspired by spite."

On the 3rd of February, 1923, the armature-winder W. of Bochum made the following statement in connection with the above incident:

"On the day in question toward 7 p.m. I passed through the Hattinger Strasse; in front of the public-house a French soldier holding a revolver in his hand suddenly pounced upon me. He held the pistol to my body, flung me off the sidewalk, and like a maniac showered French invectives upon me. I at once went over to the other side of the street, but here I was threatened with the knife by another French soldier, who also swore at me in French. When I saw that other passers-by were likewise threatened with pistols and knives by the French soldiers, I went into a house and telephoned to the German police for protection. When I came out into the street again, I heard three shots being fired in the direction of Otto Strasse. The crowd which had assembled, although it gave way before the soldiers, was rushed by the latter, who continually threatened to shoot. I noticed that several of the French soldiers were under the influence of liquor."

Printer E. of Bochum states:

On the 2nd of February I went I went down Hattinger Strasse about 7 p.m. I saw that a crowd had collected in front of a public-house. A moment afterwards a French soldier holding a revolver in his hand, rushed at me and held the pistol to my chest. He demanded in French that I should get off the sidewalk. I obeyed his order at once. In the meantime several other French soldiers came rushing out of the bar-room in great excitement. Everyone of them carried either a revolver or a knife. They evidently told those who had been outside in the street, that they had not been able to get anything to drink. Then some of them went back into place and started to eject the Germans who were inside. I saw a war-invalid threatened in the most brutal manner by the Frenchmen and thrown into the street. The public-house or saloon was then closed. Evidently the French soldiers were greatly incensed that they could not obtain alcoholic drinks. They were yelling and shouting and gesticulating with revolvers and knives. A crowd stood around, looking calmly on. But after they saw that the Frenchmen made very free with their weapons, the people dispersed on their own account. The French soldiers eventually withdrew in the direction of Otto Strasse and Westfalen Platz. After about thirty paces all of them, about thirty to forty, turned round as if by order, and at the same time three shots were fired. The crowd had immediately disappeared into the side streets."

Mr. P. an official of the Miners' Union of Bochum was one of the Germans who had been wounded by shots fired by the French soldiers. He gives the following account of what happened:

"On the 2nd of February about 7.30 p.m. I was making a call on a lady friend living in the Hattinger Strasse. Just when I was about to enter the house, twenty to twenty-five French soldiers came from the public-house, loudly swearing in French. Some of them had knives in their hands, while others had their pistol cases opened and their hands on their pistols. The French soldiers went away together in the direction of Westfalen Platz. When they were about eighty to a hundred yards away from me, I started to go into the house of my friend; at the same moment a bullet hit me in the right arm. I was first taken to the public-house and thence to a hospital."

Landlord F. of Herten states: "There is a French guard in my house. On the 8th of February the Corporal in charge of the guard told me that they were now on police duty and that I would have to close punctually at 11 o'clock, as otherwise they would close up the place. In the evening about 10 minutes to eleven, I gave my guests the usual notice to leave and turned down the lights with the exception of one flame. When I came out again into the corridor, the corporal came toward me and said it was already eleven o'clock, and I should shut up the place at once. I showed him on my watch that it was only 7 minutes to eleven and asked him not to go inside, as I would easily be able to get the guests out of the house. I had scarcely entered the bar-room when the corporal in charge with another corporal came in behind me and called to the guests: "Get out!" I asked him not to interfere; I closed the bar and asked the people present to leave the house. The clock in the bar-room which is very correct, showed four minutes to eleven, like my watch. Thereupon the corporal in charge stood with the back against the wall, took up a hand-grenade, and was on the point of cutting in the fuse. I sprang between him and my guests and ordered him to put the grenade back into his pocket, which he did after a while. Meanwhile my guests had left the place in a panic. Outside the house a number of civilians had assembled. Thereupon the guard was drawn up in the garden and the soldiers were ordered to get ready to fire. I turned on the lights in front my house once more and asked the people to leave the place, which they did immediately. When I asked the man in charge of the guard what he meant by coming into my place with hand-grenades, he replied that this was by orders of his captain."

The following incident proves how necessary it is for the keepers of public-houses strictly to refuse dispensing alcoholic drink to the troops.

Report of the Police Sergeant H. of Witten-on-Ruhr: "In the night of the 11th to 12th February 1923, I was on duty and was going down Ruhr Strasse. Near the corner of Schiller Strasse a French soldier who was intoxicated ran past me and called out: "Civilians!" There were four or five civilians walking in front of me. I went up to them to find out what was wrong. At this moment the guard came from the Hotel Voss and arrested Y., a businessman, and Z., an engineer. When the intoxicated French soldier saw me, he had me arrested likewise. On the way to the guard-room I saw the intoxicated soldier kicking the two civilians so badly that one of them began to limp. When we arrived at the guard-room I asked for the officer and an interpreter. When the intoxicated French soldier heard this, he began beating me with his fists; the left side of my head was quite bruised. He kept on hitting me until some of his comrades pulled him away. Even when I was out of reach of his fists, he kicked at me and bawled out that he would kill me. I asked for an officer who had me brought to the commanding officer. The latter inquired into the matter and the French soldier was brought up to him. When asked by the officer whether he knew

us and had beaten us, the soldier replied that he did not know us. The officer himself confirmed that the soldier was drunk. Then the French soldier said he would give us anything to keep the matter quiet when we got out."

How the French Invaders Treat Women and Minors.

French "Chivalry" to Women!

Paula X. a nurse-maid of Treves makes the following statement: "On the 20th of January we were walking along Brücken Strasse, in the middle of the street. A French officer came toward me in opposite direction on the sidewalk, accompanied by three others. He kicked me against the left elbow and struck me on the head with the riding-whip which curled round my face and left a weal on my cheek. Owing to the kick, my arm was badly swollen. I still feel a pain in my arm although the swelling is gone. I had given no provocation to the French officer for this treatment. Before he kicked and beat me, he also grabbed a gentleman who was likewise walking in the middle of the street, by the arm and kicked him in the back. This gentleman had also given no provocation whatever."

Mrs. A. of Recklinghausen reports as follows: "On the 12th of February about 7 p.m. I was walking home from the business premises of Messrs. Fischer. At the corner of Martini Strasse and Kurfürstenwall, I encountered a French soldier. Without any reason whatever the soldier attacked me,—without even having said a word to me previously. He struck me four times a sweeping blow into the abdomen. Once he kicked me into the small of the back and also bumped his knee up against my knee. The blows have left a violent pain. I have also bad pains in the bladder."

Mrs. Z. of Treves sates: "On 25th of January I was walking near the Augustinerhof when a troop of French soldiers in red cloaks came riding down Schanzer Strasse. I was walking on the sidewalk and one of the French soldiers was riding on the sidewalk. As I could not reach any of the house-entrances, I squeezed as closely as I could against the gate around the Augustinerhof, which recedes slightly from the street. Yet the soldier hit me with something inflicting a serious wound underneath my right eye. The soldier had hit me on the brim of my hat which bent under the blow, so that he actually struck me underneath the eye."

Miss M. of Hordel makes the following statement before the Magistrate of Wanne: "On the 8th of February about 9 a.m. when travelling to Mende, I was driven out of the railway station at Wanne by French troops, together with other civilians. I lost my whole baggage, a trunk containing clothes, linen, and other articles. I did my best to be allowed to take the trunk with me, but there was no time and the French would not allow it. They went at us with the butts of their rifles; we were knocked down and beaten. Everyone scrambled to get out of the turmoil. Many of the people were crying and weeping because they were being maltreated so badly."

Attempts at Rape.

The mechanican A., a French subject, who was lately employed in the Ruhr district, escaped from the French who accused him of having worked in Germany. He made the following statement before the Police Magistrate at Cassel: "On Friday, the 2nd of March, 1923, I heard personally, that a captain of the 106th Regiment at Hattingen gave the following instruction in front of his company: *»Quand vous rencontrez un homme et une femme, soient mariés ou fiancés vous emmenez l'homme à la mairie pour s'identifier. Si la femme est assez jolie, faites ce que vous voulez, ma foi allez dormir avec elle.*" This means: 'If you meet a man and a woman, no matter whether they are married or engaged to be married, take the man away to the townhall to be identified. If the

woman is pretty enough, do as you like with her; by Jove, go and sleep with her! I now remember that the name of the captain who said this was "Maury".

Mr. X., Secretary of the Party of Recklinghausen, reports to the magistrate as follows: "On Thursday, the 8th of February, behind the Kreishaus, a girl of some 16 years came running to me, crying loudly for help. She told me that the French sentry had attacked her and that she just had been able to escape. I told the girl I would try to protect her and walked away with her. We had barely walked ten yards when the soldier who had attacked the girl, stepped from behind a tree and threatened me with a revolver, so that I had to stop. When I remonstrated with him, he said he would not hurt me; he only wanted the girl. Thereupon the soldier allowed me to pass, but followed me for twenty to thirty yards with cocked revolver."

Mr. K., a commercial traveller of Recklinghausen, on the 3rd of March 1923 made the following statement: "On the evening of the same day a French officer accompanied by a soldier, came to my flat. The officer seems to be quartered very near the place where I live, because his motor car was kept just behind the house. The French captain tried to engage us in a conversation. My brother with two ladies of his acquaintance were visiting us. When we naturally remained rather cool and reserved he soon left. On the afternoon on the following day the French captain appeared again at my house. As I was in the office, my wife was alone. The French captain made indecent overtures to her and said among other things: 'Madame, if you will *firt* with me for five minutes, I will pay you a hundred and fifty thousand marks.' My wife rejected the offer in the most indignant manner and told the officer that in Germany we had different ideas of decency, whereupon the officer replied that we were very backward in Germany, and if she did not submit now, he would come again until she became sensible. When I returned from the office in the evening, my wife told me what had happened, but as we did not think that the officer after his rebuke, would come back again, I went to work the next morning as usual. About 2 p.m. that day the French captain again came to my flat. He closed the window, which was open, as soon as he had entered the room and repeated his indecent requests of the previous day. When my wife would have nothing to do with him, he attacked her and threw her on the bed with unmistakable intent. Our baby of four months old, which had been asleep in the bed, woke up and started to cry. The French officer then desisted after having made my wife promise to get him a girl by five o'clock in the afternoon. He insisted that this girl should look exactly like my wife. When my wife gave me an account after I arrived home, we decided in order to avoid trouble, to leave our home and move to my parents. But we asked a friend to watch whether the officer actually came back again in the afternoon. This friend told us later, that punctally at five o'clock the French officer had called again. He knocked at the door several times and when no one opened, he left the house."

The wife of Mr. X., Police-Secretary of Recklinghausen on the 2nd of March, made the following statement before the magistrate: "On the evening of the 28th of February, i.e., on the date on which the French invaders disarmed the entire police force; arrested or deported all policemen and officials they could seize, and also occupied the station of the "green police" at Cäcilienhöhe, three French soldiers came into my flat. At first they rang the bell and when the door was not opened at once, they knocked against it with the butts of their rifles and ordered me to open forthwith. The soldiers spoke a broken German. In order to avoid damage being done, I was compelled to open the door. The soldiers penetrated into my flat and requested me to go with them to the Cäcilienhöhe which is just opposite the house, to spend the night with them. I told them that as a German woman I would have nothing to do with French soldiers. Eventually I induced them to leave me alone. On the same evening toward nine o'clock some more French soldiers came to my house again making

indecent overtures. When they found that I would have nothing to do with them, they left the house under vicious threats, swearing and cursing all the time. About midnight, when I was already in bed, someone knocked several times against my bedroom window. The front door bell rang and something hard was flung against my door. The men outside asked me to get dressed and open the door; otherwise they would get in by force and batter the door down. Without having time to dress, I opened the door. There were two French officers outside, one of whom carried a riding-crop, with which he gesticulated all the time evidently in order to bully me. The officers told me they wanted to sleep in the house. When I replied that I had no accommodation, they came after me into the kitchen, and took hold of me several times. They said that as my husband was away they could very well be accommodated in my bedroom. This indecent offer I indignantly refused and told them that no threats would make me submit. I further threatened them that I should complain to the commanding general about these continued molestations. The officers stayed in my kitchen for about an hour and when they saw that they would not gain their object, perhaps also induced by my threat to go to the C.O., they left my flat about one o'clock in the morning. I was not again molested that night although several times during the rest of the night somebody rapped at my door and windows. But I did not open again.

The wives of other police officials living in the same street told me the next morning, that they were also molested in the evening and during the night by French officers. It is very likely that they were the same men in every instance.

After the French officers had left me about one o'clock in the morning they appeared to have gone over to Mrs. X. who told me that she was molested in the same manner. Mrs. X. had not even time to dress and had to escape through the back door very scantily clad. Owing to the shock Mrs. X. was seized with a weeping fit. A French private subsequently came up to Mrs. X. and told her that the officers had gone away. The French soldier accompanied Mrs. X. to the door of her house and gave her to understand that in his opinion the French officers were behaving abominably.

I heard yesterday that several of police officials' wives had complained to General Laignelot. Perhaps this accounts for the fact that we were not molested again last night.

Rape Perpetrated.

From the report of the District Magistrate at Münster of 26th February 1923:

"On the 16th of February, about 9 p.m., J.X., spinster, living at Knippenburg 36, Essen-Dellwig, was outraged by six French marines in the vicinity of the canal bridge. The girl was accompanied by her fiancé on the way to her new lodgings in Schul Strasse, Essen-Dellwig, whence they were transporting her furniture on a small cart. Near the canal bridge both were stopped by soldiers who demanded to see the man's passport, which was produced at once. The six French soldiers were accompanied by one Belgian who spoke German fluently. One of the French soldiers held his pistol to the head of the man and compelled him to turn back with the furniture. The soldiers took the girl away with them. After a short time she was ordered to stop and a revolver was held to her body. The Belgian explained to her that if she would submit to all the French soldiers nothing would happen to her, but if she refused she would be shot. No sooner had the girl said "No" when she was thrown into the ditch by the French soldiers. Her hands were tied to her back, the Belgian held his pistol to her head, and one of the French soldiers raped her. While this happened the other five soldiers stood a short distance away laughing. After the first soldier had done with her, she was outraged by the other five, one after another. The Belgian did not touch her. They then told the girl to get up, untied her hands, and dusted her dress. She was threatened with shooting or being thrown into the water if she told her fiancé what had happened. They then let her go.

German Youths Under French Torture.

The college student K. X. of Treves, 16 years of age, makes the following statement: "On the 28th of January 1923, we went for a walk in Brod Strasse. In front of the Hotel Trierscher Hof we noticed the sentry pushing everyone who walked in front of him with the butt of his rifle. We stood there for about twenty minutes looking on. Meanwhile another pupil, Y., had also come up, who said it was fun to watch the sentry. Thereupon Y. received a blow on the head and three further blows with an umbrella. The man who had hit him was a civilian who had been standing behind him. Later I heard that this had been a Frenchman. At once several soldiers in yellow uniforms appeared on the scene as well as the sentry and one French officer, who had been standing in front of the hotel. We were taken into the hotel. Even when we were brought into the house, someone hit me with the fist or with a riding-crop. Y. was beaten cruelly. I myself received two blows. When we were inside the building, the officer who had been standing in front of the hotel asked me: You have sworn at the soldiers? I said 'No', whereupon the officer hit me on the mouth with his fist. Then I saw one officer hitting Y. on the head with a stick, telling him to take off his cap. The officer who had been standing in front of the hotel, demanded, that the three of us should kiss the ground before him. We were compelled to comply and kissed the ground three times. Then we were told to kneel for one hour in the passage. But after about five minutes we were brought into another room where we had to kneel down for a few minutes and then were allowed to stand up. A sentry with fixed bayonet was placed in front of us. At first we were told that we would have to stand for an hour. But afterwards they left us standing from 2 o'clock till six. During this time French officers repeatedly came into the room where we were, jeering and laughing at us. Later, in the new government offices we were again maltreated.

From the sworn affidavit of the pupils of the Eleventh Lyceum at Bochum who had reported two men whom they had suspected of being French spies. "When the pupils had returned to the school building about half past two in the afternoon, the lot of them were arrested. The names of the pupils were taken down and all the French officers assembled around them. Six of them were counted off and the others had to go over to the window. Without being questioned, the first six were taken down into the court yard while the French officers insulted and abused them. In the courtyard the French Tank Squad, numbering a hundred to a hundred and fifty men had been drawn up. These men now threw themselves upon the boys who were barely out of their teens and the majority of whom were very delicate and underfed, maltreating them in an appalling manner. They were thrown down on the ground and dragged through the dirt by their legs. Then the tank squad formed a circle around the boys and drove them round and around with blows administered with fists and rifle butts. They were hit on the head with wrenches, especially in the eyes! Whilst they lay on the ground in a stupor the soldiers forced them to get up by kicking them in the face and through a long row of soldiers who beat them mercilessly all the while they were driven into a darkened room where they fell unconscious. After some considerable time the door was unlocked and French officers, one after another, came inside looking in glee at the deplorable sight, and jeering at the boys. Also the soldiers who had beaten them came inside and passed jeering remarks at them such as: "Death to the Boches; to-morrow we will finish you; to-morrow something more in the jaw; nix meat, nix bread, nix girls; nix retour, to-morrow again, cochons, &c." There was a tiny window in the ceiling of the room through which the soldiers spat on the boys. They were also searched for knives and firearms, but nothing was found. After 2 to 2½ hours the medical officer came with the commandant. The doctor was very friendly. The

2 The French Terror.

wounds were washed with warm water and bandaged up. The doctor pointed out to the commandant that there were only three straw mattresses in the room, but the officer called to the boys: "Les boches à terre, vite, vite!" (On the ground with these boches, quick!) Two pupils who had received no wounds were let go. The remaining twelve had to sleep on the three straw mattresses during the night. After twenty-four hours they were given something to eat,—the ordinary soldiers' rations. Six Frenchmen kept guard over them with fixed bayonets. The evening meal was brought to them in the dark cell about five o'clock. The bread was refused by all of them. Then they were conducted to the latrine under a strong guard who abused them all the time. In the mean time the parents had succeeded in obtaining permission to visit their children and to bring them blankets. Under strong pressure of the parents and other citizens of Bochum the boys were at last shifted to one of the class rooms. From that moment onward the French became extremely nice and conversed with the boys and tried to make up for what had happened. But the boys were not yet allowed to go free because the public was not to see their injuries. Eventually a lady placed her home at the disposal of the boys but even here they remained under French guards. This was on Saturday, the 24th of February 1923, 3.30 p.m. They were not allowed to go back to the homes of their parents until the following Monday afternoon, and even then only on condition that they were kept at home until all traces of their injuries had disappeared. When they were transferred from the school to the house of the lady, they were forced to take off their bandages and to cover their bruises with their hands so they might not be seen in public. The injuries which the boys received were very serious indeed. Even to-day, ten days after, their faces are blue and yellow, and some of them have deep wounds, more especially around the eyes. It is a marvel really, that some of them have not lost their eye-sight. Yesterday the victims have been sent to the country where they will be nursed at the expense of the Bochum Municipality for four to six weeks to regain their mental and physical balance after their awful experience."

Army of Occupation Terrorizes German Government Officials.

The Legal Aspect of the Matter.

All orders or regulations of the army of occupation in the Ruhr district aiming at coercion of the officials of the German government are not legally binding. Nor is there any legal basis for the institution of court martials.

The army of occupation partially bases its claim upon art. 42 of the Hague Convention which reads thus:

"A country shall be considered as occupied when it has actually been occupied." But this paragraph presupposes a state of war to exist between the respective countries for which purpose the Hague Convention has been specially framed, and applies only to "enemy territory".

Both these postulates are lacking in respect of the Ruhr district. M. Poincaré himself has emphasized the economic nature of the occupation on every occasion. Thus M. Poincaré himself denies that this is a military occupation. But nevertheless the French and Belgian authorities proceed as if it were a military occupation. There is an irreconcilable conflict of opinion between the politic-diplomatic side represented by the French and Belgian governments and their military commanders.

The Rhineland agreement offers no basis for the procedure of the military authorities because this agreement applies only to the previously-occupied territory in the Rhineland but not to the freshly-occupied Ruhr district. Moreover art. IIIa of this agreement stipulates: "that the Allied and Associated Powers are only entitled to make the provisions necessary for the safety of the allied troops",

But in the refusal of the German officials to salute, or to transmit telegrams, or to prepare meals for the troops it will be impossible for anyone to construe this to involve any danger to the army of occupation.

Thus there is no legal basis whatever for any Franco-Belgian jurisdiction or law-making as far as the German Government Officials are concerned.

The main basis of all French orders and regulations for the Ruhr district is the order by General Degoutte of the 11th of January, 1923, which, as will be seen from the foregoing, is not legally binding.

Article I of this order especially recognizes the continued validity of German law; the only exception being that the officials of the German government "have to obey the orders of the Franco-Belgian military authorities."

This exception is likewise not legally binding, because

- 1) there is no state of war in the Ruhr district;
- 2) the Hague Convention specially stipulates that even if there is a state of war, it is not permitted: "to compel the population of an occupied district to participate in acts of war against its own country;
- 3) even French law (article 114 of the Penal Code) says "an official who is proved to have obeyed the orders of his Government shall not be punishable".

From the above it follows that the German officials who have sworn allegiance to the German government, cannot be compelled to obey the orders of an alien government.

To demand such obedience is a violation of the most elementary principles of international law and a travesty of every human conception of justice.

Forced to Break the Oath of Allegiance.

From a Police Report at Herne, 5th of February, 1923. "On the 5th of February a French officer accompanied by three French soldiers, appeared in the guard-room of the 7th police district and requested Crown-Sergeant X. to assemble his men. A French Army Policeman made the following announcement in German:

"By order of the General Commanding, your two leaders have to-day been arrested because they failed to salute French army officers. We herewith give you warning that you will have to salute every French officer. You would better do this, gentlemen, because you are only a tool of the German government. If you refuse, you will injure your own interests. You would be deported and as the majority of you are married, this measure would hit you very hard. We know that the German population will be very glad to be rid of you, because then we shall do police duty ourselves. We may tell you again that we have been put in charge of the entire German police force. If you do not obey our orders, you will not be sent to the east, but over to the west."

Mr. X., Police superintendent of Witten, states:

"On the 7th of February I was arrested by the French occupation authorities. For a week previously the French had approached me with a view to compel the merchants in town to sell goods to the army of occupation, and to remove by policemen in uniform the signs in the various shops, stating that nothing would be sold to members of the army of occupation. I sternly refused to do this or to give the officials under my charge orders to salute the French officers."

From the official report: "Customs Inspector X. of the Customs Department Kalterherberg was arrested by Belgian troops and was thrown into the military prison at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) among criminals of the worst sort and into a dirty and vermin-infested cell, because he refused to obey the orders of the Belgian commander.

During the proceedings the following question was asked: "If we were to send you back to Kalterherberge now, where as you know you would be under orders of the interallied commission, how would you act?" When he replied: 'I should not act differently from before', the Belgian Court official shouted at him in a towering rage: "Well, if you will have it so, we will put you into prison again and deport you."

The Customs Inspector X. of the Düsseldorf department makes the following statement: "On the 30th of January in the morning I was fetched away and was asked again whether I would agree to confiscate the German customs proceeds in favour of the Belgian authorities. I curtly replied in the negative. I was then hand-cuffed and thrown into the Belgian prison of Crefeld."

From the official report: "Chief Customs Superintendent, Mr. X. of the General Customs Department Heinsberg was arrested and hand-cuffed on the 27th of January because he refused to obey the Belgian orders. After having been kept waiting for five hours, he was asked whether he was prepared to cooperate in the carrying out of the sanctions against the German government. When he refused again, he was hand-cuffed once more and sent to prison."

From the official report: "Customs official Mr. X. of the main customs department at Bochum was kicked into the basement of the building where he was locked up for twenty-four hours. After that time a French officer informed him that he would not be allowed to leave the cellar or have any food until he would state where the money in the cash department was to be found."

Police Sergeant X. of the "green police" at Dortmund reports: "On the 7th of February I was stopped on the way from the rifle-range to our quarters, and brought over to the French guard-room. A French major told me that I had been arrested for failing to salute. He informed me that I would be let go whenever I acknowledged the French order that the officers of the army of occupation were to be saluted. I replied that as police officer only the orders of my own government were binding on me and that I would not obey any French orders. I was now informed that I would be kept under arrest. On the next day I was deported to Castrop by two French gendarmes."

Head Customs Secretary X. reports: "On the 24th of January I was summarily arrested after I had refused to stamp the freight notes presented to me by a Belgian officer. I was brought to Aachen Penitentiary and placed in solitary confinement in a filthy cell, where there was neither heat nor light. The Belgian judge before whom I was brought at first treated me politely, trying to make me recant. When this proved of no avail he shouted at me: "All right, then you will have to take your punishment and afterwards we will fling you out."

From official reports: "On the 22nd of February a poster issued by the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs had been affixed to the Post Office at Herne. The French asked the lines-foreman, Mr. X., for the name of the man who had put up this poster. When X. refused to divulge the name, he was arrested."

"On the 17th of February a French General appeared in the Office of the Post-master of Gelsenkirchen in company of another officer and two civilians. They demanded to know the name and address of the head cashier and the list of addresses of the officials. When the post-master refused to give them the information, he was arrested and taken to the prison at Recklinghausen."

"On the 19th of February French soldiers appeared in the telegraph office at Bochum to deliver a letter with an order to the director of the construction department. Telegraph-secretary X., as the oldest in rank, refused to accept the letter. He was threatened with a revolver and the soldiers broke the windows of his booth. The next day a large number of French soldiers appeared and arrested Mr. X."

"On the 20th of February the telegraph-secretary, Mr. X., of Bochum was requested by some French soldiers to show them the way to the telegraph inspection department. When he refused the soldiers drove him all the way across the yard of the post office with rifle-butts to the telegraph inspection. When he refused to show the room of the director, he was beaten, kicked, and arrested."

Customs Inspector, Mr. X., of the main customs department Bochum, hands in the following report: "On the 28th of February a number of French soldiers appeared before the Main Customs Building. They demanded that I should open the safe. The chief cashier opened the safe which contained neither money nor books. When they asked me where the money was, I replied that I did not even know whether there was any money in the safe because I had nothing whatever to do with this part of the department. I was then conducted to the Lyceum where the military headquarters were, and was brought before a French captain, who grinned spitefully, and had me put into the cellar of the building. I was placed into a room about one yard wide, four yards long, and two yards high, the floor being covered with broken glass, rubbish, coal, and iron pipes. The pipes of the central heating system ran along the top, rendering the temperature in the place almost unbearable. I estimated the temperature at 100 to 120 degr. F. In this place I was kept a prisoner for about twenty-four hours. After they had kicked me into this place the captain informed me that I would not be let out, nor receive anything to eat, until I had told them where the money was. After a few minutes a corporal came and asked me whether I would confess to where the money was kept. When I said that I did not know, and even if I did I should not tell him on account of the oath of allegiance, he hit me in the face with his fist. After a few minutes the inquisition was continued."

From the official report: "On the 23rd of January, Mr. X., railway inspector of the Oberhausen Station, was forced by Belgian officers and soldiers to go to the switch and signal station. He was driven down the stairs with blows and threatened with a revolver. Under continued threats he was asked to give information regarding the working of the station. When he refused to give the information he was dismissed."

Locomotive driver X. of Recklinghausen made the following statement: January 29th, 1923. "After about half an hour had elapsed the two sentries brought me into the presence of three officers of the army of occupation. One of these officers asked me for the tank station for watering locomotives. When I said that I could not give this information, he said that I would be given two minutes to change my mind or be shot. When this threat was in vain he gave me several brutal and painful slashes with his riding-crop. He repeated his question four times and when I replied: "I don't know", he hit me every time with his riding-whip. Then he wanted to know where the valves, hose and other locomotive spares were concealed and I replied again that I did not know. His rage became still greater and he slashed me viciously across the back with his riding-crop. They then commenced to search the entire place. The doors which were closed were simply battered in with the butts of rifles. They struck and drove me through all the rooms. All articles of use which were found, such as soap, scouring rags, matches, twine, &c., were taken along."

From the report of the Traffic Department at Düsseldorf, 23rd of February: "This morning a French officer appeared in everyone of the forty-eight cottages of the Railway Construction Society Tusmann Strasse and gave the following verbal order: "Every official who refuses to go on duty within forty-eight hours will have to quit his home with his family and will be deported from Germany."

From the official report: "On the 20th of February Chief Railway Inspector X., was summoned before the Interallied Field Railway Commission and asked whether he was willing to go back on duty. In case he replied in the affirmative, he was told that no harm would come to him, but if he refused, he would be driven out of his home."

After the bodies of German Civil Servants could not be induced to violate their oath of allegiance, notwithstanding the pressure that had been brought to bear the Franco-Belgian army of occupation endeavoured by every conceivable means to prevent them from doing their duty.

From the official report: "On the 24th of January two police sergeants were stationed in the Bochum Telegraph Department for the protection of the male and female officials. In the afternoon a French officer appeared and took away a Morse instrument. The telegraph inspector with the two policemen went up to the officer and demanded the return of the apparatus. The French officer ordered the officials to leave the building at once. The latter refused saying that they were commissioned to protect the department. Thereupon the officer had the two German policemen arrested by fifteen soldiers.

Police Sergeants X. and Y. of the "green police" of Bochum, make the following statement: "On the 6th of February S. the landlady of a Tearoom, telephoned to the police for protection. We were commissioned to go there. In the shop we found a French military policeman, a French captain, and several French soldiers. The French policeman asked us what we wanted. The proprietess said she had called for us. The French policeman asked us to leave the place which we refused to do before finding out what the trouble was. Thereupon the French arrested us."

Crown Sergeant X. of the "green police" at Bochum reports: "On the 9th February about 10 p.m. a French motor-car containing six French soldiers was being driven along the wrong side of the street. I stopped them and told them that they were on the wrong side of the street. When they insisted on proceeding I stood in front of the car. Then one of the French soldiers threatened me with his pistol."

According to the official report Sergeant X. of the Bochum police had the same experience with a French vehicle in the same street. When the sergeant requested the officer to use a side street to avoid blocking the traffic he was told that he had to keep quiet because the French officers could do as they pleased. When he stood in front of the vehicle several French soldiers pushed him aside. Several of them threatened him with bayonets and compelled him to allow the vehicle to proceed."

From the report of the Bochum Municipality: "On the 23rd of February the town-hall of Bochum was suddenly surrounded by French troops. The magistrate and eighteen town concillors were arrested for failing to inform the French authorities of their meeting."

From the official report: "On the 13th of February, thirty to forty soldiers of the 172nd French Infantry Regiment appeared heavily armed without any officer in charge, in front on the prison at Gelsenkirchen. Without allowing the prison authorities time to open the doors, they forced an entrance battering in the door with the butts of their rifles, and fired a number of shots. The soldiers now proceeded to search the prison officials maltreating them quite without reason. They gave no reason what they wanted in the prison. They took keys and weapons away from the officials and also appropriated some of their private belongings, for instance, a watch. As the shooting and the noise attracted my attention, I went from the Law Courts over to the prison. I tried to parley with the soldiers who were searching the prison cells on the second floor, in order to ascertain the cause of the procedure. The corporal however would give no reason whatever and seems to have given instructions to take me away because several soldiers with bayonets suddenly rushed at me. When I was going downstairs, I received a violent kick in the back. The disarmed officials were treated like criminals. They were lined up in the prison-yard and threatened with rifles and bayonets until a field-sergeant came up who had the weapons returned to the German officials and ordered the soldiers to leave."

Interfering with Men on Duty by Occupying Service Buildings.

From the official report of the Postal Department: "On the 28th of January the lady telegraph operators in the telegraph department at Düsseldorf were removed by force. The excesses of the army of occupation were aggravated by the brutal behaviour of the French officers and men. When Col. Bralet personally drove the German officials out of the local telephone exchanges, he threatened them with his riding-crop. The German staff was driven out of the switch house by main force. Miss X. was kicked down the stairs by a French soldier, whilst others shouted and whistled. Three French ladies who were present in the building voiced their disapproval in unmistakable terms."

"On the 19th of February at Düsseldorf, seven French officers with an interpreter and eight soldiers penetrated into the building of the General Postal Department, put a guard over the exits and the exchange-rooms, and drove the lady operators out of the building."

"On the 22nd of February the General Post Office of Düsseldorf was again occupied and the regular staff was forbidden to enter the building."

"On the 23rd of February the staff of the engine room of the Essen Telegraph Department was driven out by main force."

"On the 27th of February French soldiers occupied the Post Office at Bad Ems and forbade the staff to go on duty."

"In the same manner, on the 28th of February, the Post Offices of St. Goarshausen, Caub, and Lorch were occupied and the staff forbidden to go on duty."

"On the 1st of March, French soldiers occupied the Post Office at Dietz, arrested the post-master, and would not allow the staff to go on duty."

"On the 2nd of March French oldiers occupied the Main Post Office at Coblenz as well as the Post and Telegraph Department. All officials were searched and driven out of the building."

Preventing the Distribution of Food among the Destitute.

From an official report at Recklinghausen: "On Saturday, the 24th of February, about 6 a.m. the railway station of Recklinghausen was occupied by French troops. The German staff had to leave the station. The French soldiers would not allow any traffic near the station. For this reason it became impossible to distribute potatoes to the poor. The poor people, some of whom were old and crippled, had walked for over an hour to get the potatoes."

From the report of the Engineering Inspection, Dortmund: "On the 26th of January the staff of the Recklinghausen Railway Station was driven away by the French army of occupation. During the occupation of the locomotive-shed the locomotive driver X. was shot through the right arm."

The Shop-foreman X., of Stolberg, made the following statement: "On the 1st of February about 9 a.m. two French engineers with a Belgian non-commissioned officer appeared and requested me to put a derailed car back on the track in district VI. I refused to do this owing to the regulations of the German Government. Twenty minutes later one of the two engineers appeared with an officer, six Belgians and ten French soldiers, who were posted at the different entrances to the locomotive shed and office. The officer again requested me to put the car, which was loaded, back on the track. Again I refused. Thereupon the officer brutally struck me on the chest with his revolver and threatened to shoot me. At the same time the French engineer hit me in the side with his revolver, using profane and insulting terms, like: "German swine, &c."

When I insisted in my refusal the French soldiers drove me out of the office with blows with the butts of the rifles, by order of the French officer, and forced me into the locomotive-shed. The officer now pointed his revolver at my chest telling me to order the men engaged in the shed to put the car back on the track. Even now I refused to comply, faithful to the orders of my government. The soldiers then rained blows upon me with the butts of their rifles; under this brutal treatment I was finally forced to give the men the order which the French officer demanded of me. But at the same time I called the men as witnesses under what coercion I had yielded. I also told the men that they would know what to do themselves.

The officer now also rushed at the workmen, threatening them with his revolver, whereupon I begged them to give up resisting in order to avoid bloodshed.

Some of the workman followed me to the tool truck to fetch winches and tackle. While going there I was grossly insulted by the French being called: "German swine, thief, &c."

When we got to the tool truck, the men brought out the various tools, the French officer and engineer using insulting language all the time, telling me that I had stolen all the material on the tool truck in Belgium. When I took exception to this abuse, the French engineer kicked me and hit me with his revolver.

When the jacks were brought out the engineer said jeeringly to the officer: 'C'est pour le chef', pointing to one of the heavy jacks. When I refused to carry the jacks, I was forced by blows with rifle-butts and kicks from the engineer to carry it to district VI.

The officer also persisted in hitting me in the ribs with the revolver. On the railway platform I was led with the jack on my back, past the through-train which was standing there, the officer and engineer explaining jeeringly to the passengers: This is the shop-foreman! After the car was back on the track, the workmen were dismissed but I was taken to the guardroom."

Officials Arrested, Deported, and Otherwise Punished.

(The figures are actually very much higher.)

| Arrests | Deportations | Fines | Penalties Imprisonment |
|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| a) Officials coming under the Railway Administration (17th of March) | | | |
| 218 | 129 | 42 | — |
| b) Officials of the Post and Telegraph Department (9th of March) | | | |
| 172 | 61 | 20 | 25 |
| 37 of whom were deported | | 10.000 to 5 million Mks. total 7.220.000 Mks. | From 8 days to 1 year Total 7 years, 4 months, 14 days |
| c) Officials of the Customs and Tax Departments (15th of March) | | | |
| 214 | 292 | 26 | 42 |
| | | From 50.000 Mks. to 17.500.000 Mks. total 24.000.000 Mks. | From 15 days to 1 year; total 9 years, 3 months, 27 days |
| d) Officials of the Forestry Department (15th of March) | | | |
| 6 | 44 | — | — |
| | incl. 6 who were arrested | | |

Among those deported were the following higher officials:
The Chief President of the Rhenisch Province and also all Government Presidents.

5 Police Prefects, 3 Presidents of the rank of Postmasters-General,
3 Presidents of the Railway Administration,
2 Presidents of Provincial Finance Departments,
2 Presidents of the Court of Appeal,
49 Burgomasters,
31 Directors of Posts and Telegraphs,
9 Customs Directors,
6 State Bank Directors,
3 Government Directors,
4 Newspaper Editors,
13 Directors General and Managers of Mining Concerns, &c.

Arbitrariness of French "Justice"

Brutal Treatment During Arrest.

From the official report of the Chief of Police at Gelsenkirchen: "When the French soldiers stormed the 'Wache Bismarck' all four police officials in the guardroom were taken prisoner. An eye-witness reports that the four officials were placed in the yard behind the guardroom with uplifted arms, hit in the face, and knocked against the chest and on the head with the butts of rifles. One of them was thrown on the ground and trampled on. Witness states it was a most repulsive spectacle. Also when the officials were put into a motorcar the French hit them in the face with clenched fists although they offered no resistance whatever."

Another witness says the officials were treated like beasts.

Police-Sergeant X. makes the following statement regarding the arrest of officials on the "Centrum"-Guard, on the 12th of February, 1923: "About 10 o'clock three French armoured cars advanced against the guard-room and trained their guns upon the windows of the building. Behind the armoured cars tanks were drawn up which also trained their guns upon the windows. Under the cover of these armoured cars and tanks three squadrons of cavalry of the 13th Regiment dismounted and surrounded the little guard-room building. Now infantry was sent to advance against the guard-room. The soldiers first tried to provoke the policemen inside the guard-room by urinating and easing themselves underneath the guard-room windows. When this had no effect, the windows were battered in and about ten shots were fired inside. All these shots went through the windows into the ceiling of the room. During the shooting invectives were hurled at the men inside such as: "assassins, German swine, &c." Then they called out: "Down arms! Hands up!" We put down our arms and held up our hands; thus we walked out of the guard-room. We now had to pass between two rows of French soldiers who received us with slashes with riding-whips and blows with the butts of rifles. While they were inflicting this treatment we had to march with uplifted hands to the corner of Kreuz Strasse. Then we were ordered in French to take our hands down. When we did not understand, the order was interpreted by blows with rifle butts. We had to fall in with three and were marched through the Kreuz Strasse and Hoch Strasse. The order to march was given by: Parademarsch (Goose-step), the French officer saying: "You German swine ought to know this order." By kicks in the back and blows with rifle butts we were forced to do the goose-step. On either side and at the end of the line French soldiers were marching with cocked pistols and fixed bayonets, which they kept trained on us. The French

soldiers cried all the time: "Keep pace, throw out your legs!" As they thought we did not throw our legs out high enough, they kicked us all the time. I was marching at the end of the file and suddenly someone hit me over the head from behind with the butt of a rifle, felling me to the ground. When the soldiers saw this, they rammed the butts of their rifles into my back and kicked me. My service cap had dropped off my head and received a blow with the butt of a rifle on my bare head, the blood streaming down my face. The treatment meted out to my comrades was equally brutal. The few belongings which we were carrying, were taken away from us under obscene jokes on the part of the French soldiers. We were then locked into a stable near the Freudenstein Inn."

Police corporal X. of Recklinghausen states: "On the 7th of February I was stopped by a French sentry at the corner of Brink Strasse. I was accused of having sung: "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles", which I had not done. There were already some civilians in the guard-room. I had to stand apart from them in one corner. After about ten minutes two French non-coms, ordered me to stand in the middle of the room. Both maltreated me brutally with kicks and blows with their fists. One of them asked in a questioning tone: "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles?" At the same time he beat me so that I dropped to the floor. The soldiers lifted me up again and maltreated me again with fists and boots. When they had done with me I was almost deaf."

E., a locksmith at Recklinghausen, reports: "I was arrested on the 8th of February about 8 p.m. when I was standing in front of the door. They put a revolver to my head and took me to the Engelsburg. I was searched and beaten with riding-crops, fists, and rifle butts. I was also kicked brutally. While searching me, my clothes were torn. I was then locked into the bowling-alley of the Engelsburg, beaten again and thrown on the ground. I was then cross-examined and after proving my innocence, was dismissed."

Mr. X. Chief Customs Secretary of Kaldenkirchen, reports: "On the 5th of February I saw Mrs. Y. escorted by detectives. She had been arrested and had broken down completely. She had been taken away from home by force and her children, the youngest of whom was 1½ years old, had been left alone in the house. She herself and her eldest daughter, who was with her, were only scantily clad. The Belgian had told her that she would be kept in prison until she confessed where her husband was."

Mr. X. makes the following statement: "On Monday, the 5th of March, 1923, 3 p.m. I was on my way to the office. Outside the Bochum railway station, about 100 yards distant from the station, I was stopped by a French officer and some soldiers and arrested without any reason. When the train had entered the station, I had been the first to rush through the gate in order to avoid the usual crush, and thus I was also the first to gain the street outside the station. The street was quite deserted. I walked very fast to get to the office because the train was half an hour late. I asked the officer why I had been arrested. By way of answer he hit me across the face with his riding-whip and tore up the passport which I had shown him. I naturally lost my temper and lifted my walking-stick with the intention of striking the officer. At this moment a soldier rushed at me and put his bayonet to my chest. I gave him a strong blow on the fingers with my stick, which made him drop his rifle to the ground. Meanwhile a large crowd had collected. The people took my part and hissed the soldiers, of whom several then pounced upon me striking me savagely with the butts of their rifles. I fell to the ground unconscious. I regained consciousness when someone pulled me to my feet again and I then saw that several other persons had been arrested by the French soldiers.

"My hands were tied to my back with straps and I was driven to the school building with blows from rifle-butts and riding-whips. In the corridor of the school

building the officer who had come with me all the way, stopped me again, hit me in the face with his fist several times, and spat in my face.

"I was taken before an interpreter who had installed himself in a temporary office at the end of the corridor. Here I protested against my arrest and the repeated brutalities to which I had been subjected. Without replying to what I had said, the interpreter accused me of having torn some French placards off the walls of the town hall at 8 o'clock that morning. I told him that this was impossible, because I could prove by witnesses that I had been at work in my office from 7.30 that morning. I asked him to take down the names of the witnesses which I would give him. The interpreter declined to take down these names, saying that in such cases as mine witnesses would not be admitted before a French court-martial. I then told the interpreter that I could not have torn off these placards because I never took notice of French hand-bills. I had scarcely said this when the interpreter hit me in the face so that I stumbled back into room. Also the clerks who were present now took a hand in maltreating me with rulers, &c. Finally I received a kick in the back which sent me sprawling down the stairs and landed me among the soldiers who had escorted me previously. These gave me a few kicks and punches and took me down into the cellar. Halfway down the stairs a French soldier kicked me in the back so that I pitched head-first into the cellar, my head striking the stone floor. Here a soldier—apparently a non-com.—pulled me up by the arm and dragged me further back into the cellar. The odour in this place was absolutely indescribable. I saw about fifteen human beings in torn and blood-stained clothes, with bruised faces, lying about on the stone floor. The room was about 3 yards square and received light through a tiny grilled window high up on the ceiling. The soldier who seemed to be in charge motioned me with his hand to undress. As they thought that this was not done quick enough the soldiers threw themselves upon me and literally tore my clothes off my body. My clothes were searched for weapons, but naturally nothing was found because I never carry a weapon. From my pocket-book they stole 7,000 Mks. My military passport and private documents they took out of my pocket-book and burnt them before my eyes. My wedding ring was pulled off my finger and one soldier put it in his pocket with a satisfied grin. At last they found my cigar-case and its contents were distributed among his comrades by the soldier in charge. While the loot was thus being shared, I was left standing perfectly naked before the soldiers. Now the soldier in charge took hold of me and brought me to the other side of the cellar. There was a wooden paling in that part of the cellar. I had to turn my face to this paling; the soldiers forced me to lift up my arms and spread-eagled me to the paling with thongs. The other prisoners who were lying about the floor had lifted their heads a little to see what new victim had been dragged into the cellar. When the soldiers, who had meanwhile tied me fast, saw this, they went back to the other prisoners and made them lie down by hitting them mercilessly with the butts of their rifles. I had turned my head and could see what was going on in the cellar. I saw a French officer coming down the stairs. He walked up to me quite leisurely, and hit me across the back with his riding-crop. A short time after, two more Frenchmen, apparently officers, came down stairs, walked up to me, and gave me three cuts with their riding-whips just below the shoulder blades. From that moment onward I could no longer count the lashes I received. I only know that there were several Frenchmen at work behind my back who beat me with long whips, evidently WIRE WHIPS. After about fifteen lashes I fainted with the pain and do not know how long the soldiers continued to beat me.

After about an hour I regained consciousness. I found myself lying on the floor of the cellar. I had been roused by the fact that I was suffocating, because I was lying face downward on a rubbish heap and the dirt had got into my lungs. My back was burning like fire. I seemed to have been beaten even after having been untied

and thrown on the rubbish heap. I was still perfectly naked. A French soldier brought me a shirt, trousers, waistcoat, and one boot. These articles I put on under excruciating pains. When I slipped over the shirt, I noticed that it was becoming quite blood-stained and stuck to my back. My mouth was parched and an unbearable thirst tormented me. I implored the soldier to give me some water. He took me by the arm and pulled me to a barrel standing in a corner of the cellar which was half full of water. The soldier refused to give me a cup to drink from, and I had to bend over the barrel like a dog to lap up the water which was evil-smelling and dirty. Then I dragged myself back to my place and lay down on my stomach on the stone slabs of the cellar floor, trying to endure the excruciating pain on my back, which extended down to my calves. The other prisoners lay stretched on the stone floor quite oblivious to their surroundings. After a while I started to talk to an elderly gentleman who was lying next to me, or rather he sought to comfort me in a low voice when he heard me moan with pain. This gentleman, whose face was also quite bruised and battered, told me that like the majority of the other prisoners, he had been lying in this cellar for three days. Neither he nor the other prisoners had been allowed even to go out to satisfy the needs of nature during this entire time, although they had implored the soldiers to let them out at least to urinate. As they were not allowed to move from the spot he like all the rest of them, had to relieve themselves where they, lay during these three days. The guard who had heard the last words, rushed at us, rammed his rifle butt into my sore back, kicked me, and also maltreated the old man next to me in the same manner, thereby compelling us to break off our conversation. When the guard was relieved another came on duty who made the impression of being less cruel. I begged him to come near me and implored him to let me outside for just one moment to ease myself, as I was afraid of fainting in the putrid atmosphere of the cellar. The guard said that he needed the permission of the officer for this and went away to get it. He came back presently and counted off groups of three of us who were to be taken out in turns. I belonged to the first group and was conducted with two others into the yard. As I could not walk with the pain, I crawled up the stairs on all fours and together with the others I dragged myself to a box-wood hedge which separated the school-yard from the street. Along this hedge the three of us now eased ourselves. The guard walked up and down in the yard, glancing at us from time to time. While the soldier in charge of the guards had been searching my pocket, he had found among other things a copy of "The New Westphalian Song" and he had threatened me in these words: "You German swine, at 6 o'clock you will be killed". I now resolved to get out of this hell at any price. As it happened our guard met another soldier and the two began to chat together thus relaxing his vigilance over us. At this moment, with the courage born out of desperation and not heeding my pains I jumped over the hedge which was about three feet high and ran as fast as my legs would carry me to the waste dump of the adjacent colliery. I heard the French shout after me excitedly but took no heed and rushed down the other side of the dump across an open field and upon the high road. As I tore along this road I heard shots being fired after me but I was not hit and reached the railway line Bochum-Langendreer, which I followed into Bochum. I went as soon as possible to a doctor to be examined. This doctor counted seventy-two lashes on my back down to the calves. The average length of each lash was 30 centimetres. (A photograph of the man showing the inhuman treatment he has received is filed with the official documents.)

(Follows the Signature.)

Dr. X., Medical Practitioner, makes the following statement:

"On the 7th of March, 1923, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. X. came to me stating that he had been maltreated by the French. The medical examination revealed the following: Mr. X's back and face revealed blood-shot weals too numerous to count;

as they ran one across the other. Of distinct separate lashes I counted fifty-nine on the back and thirteen on the chest. The length of the different weals was between fifteen and thirteen centimetres. Mr. X. also suffered from a slight sprain of his right ankle."

(Follows the Signature.)

Ignominious Treatment of Prisoners.

From the report of the President of Police at Dortmund: "On the 9th of February the lady saw two French officers strapping the prisoner's hands to his back. X. was first taken to the prison at Castrop and thence to Recklinghausen. Thereafter his whereabouts are unknown."

Government Concillor Dr. X. of Cleve, states: "The Belgian court martial against myself, Customs-Councillor X., and Chief Inspectors Y. and Z. took place on the 2nd February. After the proceedings we were hand-cuffed as we had also been hand-cuffed when we were brought before the court. We have felt this as an unnecessary and humiliating chicanery."

Customs Councillor, Mr. X., of Kaldenkirchen: "When I was taken before the court martial on the 2nd February, I was hand-cuffed going there and coming back. On the 5th February we were brought to the railway station in the prison van and were forebidden to speak. When we arrived at the station we were hand-cuffed again."

Chief Government Councillor, Mr. X. of Mayence states: "After being cross-examined, I was told that I had been given three days solitary confinement. I was again manacled when being brought to the guard room and also when being put into the prison van. I was strictly forebidden to speak. In the van I was put unto an almost dark cell which was so small as to render every movement impossible. This compartment was locked separately. During the night I was put into a prison cell which was very small and without window or artificial light. There was a stretcher inside the cell with a bare dirty mattress. We had to get up at five o'clock in the morning without getting breakfast."

Chief Government Councillor, Mr. Y., of Mayence, makes the following statement: "At eight o'clock 2 military police appeared who said that I was under arrest and who immediately took me to prison. There I was searched, the content of my pockets was taken away, and I was put into solitary confinement. As the windows of my prison cell were missing, the cell could not be heated. During the 14 days of my confinement in prison I was taken into the open only three times."

From the official report: "Mr. X., Postmaster of Siegburg, was arrested on the 2nd February and taken to Bonn. Although sixty years of age, he was placed into a cell which had no heat. His rations also were very inferior."

Customs Inspektor Mr. X., of Kalterherberg, states: "About 9 o'clock in the evening we were taken to the military prison at Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle). We were put into the Belgian ward among criminals of the worst type. The cell was perfectly filthy, the bedding in rags and full of vermin."

"We received nothing to eat until noon the next day, the meal consisting of a thin vegetable broth. The spoon was in a filthy condition. From the prison to the court I was taken in one of the small Belgian prison vans in which one can only sit in a stooping position. We were brought thither and back hand-cuffed."

From a police report from Cologne: "During the night from the 9th to the 10th of February, at Worringen Station, there was a transport of twenty men of the German "Green Police" who stated that they had not received anything to eat for several days. They had been arrested for failing to salute French officers."

Police Sergeant X. of Gelsenkirchen reports: "In Recklinghausen we were placed into a class-room of the Seminary, the windows of which were grilled. Outside the

room a sign was put up "Prison". There we were kept until dismissed. There was only straw for three of us and no blankets. Our first meal we received after thirty-six hours. It consisted of three tablespoons full of vermicelli soup for each of us. Nine small pieces of meat which was almost unfit to eat, had to be distributed among twenty-six of us, as well as two and a half small loaves of bread. Lashes from riding-whips forced us to lie on the ground all the time."

Assistant Customs Inspector X. of Kaldenkirchen states: "In the prison we had to do walking exercises together with criminals of the worst sort."

Mr. X., a Clerk, of Osterfeld, reports: "I was arrested during the night because I had no night permit, something which had been impossible for me to secure, because the riot-act had been proclaimed at such short notice. Together with three other citizens I was kept a prisoner over night in the coal-cellar of the school building. The place was so low that we could not stand up upright. The windows were broken and we felt extremely cold."

K. X., a butcher, of Treves, reports as follows: "On the 25th of January, about 8.30 p.m., I was taken to the headquarters of the new government. We were locked up in the cellar. There were no light, heat, or seating accommodation. The first rations we received after twenty-six hours.

Customs Inspektor X. of Losheim reports: "The interpreter told me that I should not be tried but would be sent to the French military prison forthwith. The policeman took me thither and handed me over to the assistant prison warden, who was a negro-soldier of the rank of a sergeant. This happened just after 11 o'clock on the morning of February 23rd.

"I was placed in solitary confinement into cell No. 42, which contained a low wooden stretcher with a thin mattress. The place was very cold and there were no heating arrangements. Here I was kept for 24 hours. Black soldiers with fixed bayonets were posted outside."

The Deportations.

Government Councillor X., of Cleve, states: "I received orders to leave on the 5th of February, 9 a.m. We were hand-cuffed immediately and taken to the station in the Prison Van."

Mr. X., Customs Councillor, of Heinsberg, makes the following statement: "On the 6th of February, 1 p.m., the Belgian military policeman brought me my extradition orders, telling me that I had to leave for the unoccupied territory within five minutes. As far as I know, my family have likewise received orders to leave."

From the report of the Government President of Münster: "On the 29th of January, about 11 a.m. the Chief Burgomaster of Recklinghausen, Mr. Hamm, was deported. Without being allowed to take any luggage, he was taken by motor-car to Halborn and was simply put down near the Lippe-bridge. The deportation order reads as follows:

"Mr. Hamm, Chief Burgomaster of Recklinghausen, has to leave as his presence here might endanger the public peace and the safety of the army of occupation. (signed) Laignelot."

Report of Mr. X., Government Building Councillor, of Mayence: "I was then taken by motor-car to my house and about half past twelve, at night, I was taken away, escorted by two armed soldiers. I could only take with me a small hand-bag with the most necessary belongings. At 2 o'clock at night I was put down on the high road between Hoechst and Frankfort-on-the-Main. After walking for 1½ hours on foot in the middle of the night I arrived at Frankfort."

Customs Councillor, Mr. X., of Düren, states: "I was arrested on the 25th of January and first put into the prison at Düren, where I spent five days in solitary

confinement. On the 30th of January, about half-past eleven at night, after I had gone to bed, three French military policemen came and told me to get ready at once to be taken across the border. I was not allowed to take leave of my family. I was taken in a motor-car within about two kilometres to the east of Hennef-on-Sieg where I was put down on the open high road at two o'clock in the morning, in a pouring rain."

Postmaster Flohr, a man 66 years of age, reports as follows: "After a drive of 2½ hours I was taken before the French General Hoester at Stockum. He treated me just as brutally as the French colonel had done at Wetter. He told me that I could return to Wetter immediately if I gave up passive resistance. Otherwise I should be brought before a court-martial. He gave me time to consider till the next morning. Over night I was kept in the guard-room. In the morning they used coercion again to make me change my mind, and when this proved futile, I was evicted. I was placed in a motor-lorry loaded with heavy pieces of machinery and driven away at a mad pace. The terrible jolting of the vehicle nearly made me faint. Soon I began to vomit bilious matter. When I implored the soldiers to stop for a moment to allow me to catch my breath, they grinned at me derisively. After being thus shaken about for three hours, I was put out on the high road near the bridge over the river Lippe. I was so sick that I was barely able to stand up. I have been suffering from heart trouble, which has since then been aggravated very seriously."

From the official report: "Government Councillor X., of the Ludwigshafen Station, was taken across the bridge over the Rhine without any reasons, being given and was put down on the other side of the bridge. His family were likewise evicted and were given only four days to depart."

From the official report: "Chief Inspector X. of the Speyer Station was brought by motor-car to the other bank of the Rhine. He was accused of having threatened a German official who had sympathized with the French. His family were given four days within which to move, but were forcibly evicted after twenty-four hours."

Destructive Rage of Occupying Troops.

From the official report of Recklinghausen of the 26th of February, 1923: "After the French troops had left the Railway Station Recklinghausen-Süd, the following destructions perpetrated by the troops were taken on record: The telegraph and telephone instruments of the Gullbad as well as of five switch and signal stations, were wrecked completely. The closets were broken open, the clocks battered and the lighting installations demolished. In the freight office all desks, cupboards, safes, &c. were broken open; the scale-house was demolished inside and outside. Windows were smashed in several of the railway buildings."

From an official report from Wanne, of the 26th of February. All drawers and closets in the rooms and offices were broken open and the greater part of the contents stolen. In the telegraph station everything was turned upside down and all the lines and wires cut. The private lockers of the staff were also broken into and the contents were stolen. The store-rooms at the stations were robbed. Even the books in the railway book-stalls were taken away. In the work-shops and sheds, cabinets and boxes were broken open and the doors used as fire-wood. In the large recreation room for the staff in the goods station, nearly all the furniture was broken into small pieces. The electric bulbs, clothing, chairs, and cabinets were all wantonly destroyed.

The troops that had been occupying the stations were: the 13th Cavalry Regiment, the 21st Railway Regiment, and the 172nd Infantry. The commander of the latter regiment, Colonel Brindel, was in charge of the operations."

From the official report: "On the 3rd of March French troops occupied the Essen Main Terminus, and the Station Kray-Nord, in order to requisition rolling stock. All

the offices were plundered and looted. The destruction wrought at the Kray-Nord is almost beyond belief. No room escaped destruction, no receptacle was left intact. The coats and caps of the men, utensils, cupboard-doors, official documents and files, &c., were all piled up on a heap and rendered useless by having paint and paraffin poured over them. Wreck and ruin marked the wake of the troops. Dining car No. 792 was plundered by French troops. Dining cars Nos. 705, 780, and 792, the property of a private company, were stolen.

During the occupation of the railway stations at Langendreer and Weitmar the lockers, cupboards, and desks, &c., in the various offices were broken open, the contents thrown about and stolen. In Langendreer the ambulance boxes which were marked with a red cross, were broken open and bandages and instruments taken away."

From the report of a Trade Union at Cologne, the 6th of February, 1923: "At Coblenz the French troops ravaged the railway station in an indescribable manner. They demolished the various rooms completely, broke open the closets, damaged the telegraph and telephone instruments, dirtied the tables and benches in the filthiest manner, and cut up the bed-linen into foot-rags. The locks of all the doors were broken. The aspect of these rooms after the French had departed was perfectly appalling."

The same destruction was done at the Crefeld Railway Station. "In this station the Belgians behaved in the same disgusting manner. Among other things the desk of the Station master was soiled with human excrement."

"Reports from Worringen and other places attest that wheat and flour bags found on trains were pierced with bayonets, the contents being scattered over the ground."

From an official report from Recklinghausen: "All packing cases in the goods-shed were broken open. The contents were either scattered about or filched."

From the report by the Chamber of Commerce at Bochum: "Everything movable or valuable was filched. The files and the large library were carried off, the books torn or trampled into the dirt. One large safe was stolen, the others broken open and plundered. The typewriters and table telephones had been taken away and the wall telephones demolished. The writing-desks, chairs, book-cases, carpets, pictures, &c., from the various offices were stolen. The smaller articles were scattered about, broken, or trampled to pieces.

The great assembly hall of the Chamber of Commerce was completely robbed of its furniture, including the large and valuable carpet. The portraits of former presidents of the chamber were cut to pieces. The statues were either broken up or stolen, and the curtains torn to shreds. The closets with the private belongings of the staff were broken open and the contents stolen. The gas was left turned on. The door to the private apartments of the legal adviser of the chamber was battered in. The floors were covered with glass splinters, and soiled with spilled ink, wine and brandy.

The aspect of the cellar was, if anything, even worse, especially the part which had contained a little store of provisions belonging to the porter, things which this old man had saved up. Jars with preserved fruit, jam, and fruit jelly had been smashed against the wall and the contents poured over a heap of potatoes stored on the floor. The representative of a great American newspaper who visited the place the following morning said that he had seen destruction during the war, but he had never seen a sight like this before."

From the report of the legal adviser to the Bochum Chamber of Commerce: "The man in charge of the soldiers repeatedly came back to my flat. He assured me over and over again that the Germans had acted like Vandals in France, and the French were now glad of an opportunity to do the same. Women and children would be shot against walls. What they had been doing to-day was nothing to what would happen to us tomorrow. Then the best pieces of furniture were selected from my home and also those

of a lawyer who is staying with me, and taken away. The position became very serious for my wife when about noontime the soldiers discovered the wine cellar and drank their fill, after which they became intoxicated and threatened to abuse the ladies."

Terrorizing the Population with Arms.

General Laignelot, Commanding 47th French Inf. Div., on the 9th of February to the Second Burgomaster of Recklinghausen:

"We do not care a hang about the population. We are doing very well here and do not lack anything. If the people do not submit to my orders, I shall take still severer measures until they eat from my hands."

From the official reports: "On the 3rd of March the railway signalman Franz Herold of Essen, after the occupation of the station by French troops, tried to save a few belongings from his hut and was shot dead in the attempt."

"On the 5th of March the miner Groote of Polsum was shot by a French sentry on the Westerholt Mine at Gelsenkirchen. Groote was crossing the track to go to work. A French soldier who stood guard over a few tank wagons filled with ammonia fired five shots at the miner, one of which killed him on the spot."

"On the 23rd of January the workman Drees of Kirchenden was shot from behind by French soldiers, without any apparent reason. He has since succumbed to his wounds."

"On the 4th of February a child was killed by a French corporal without provocation in the railway station of Bilk near Düsseldorf. The French soldier fired at random into a crowd of children who were standing about. The French Government offered the parents a compensation of \$4 (15 shillings)."

"On the 3rd of March, about 11 o'clock in the evening, a French patrol forced their way into the police station of Essen-Frohnhausen. There were no policemen inside at the time. A customs official who served as a sort of caretaker was arrested. The cupboards and drawers in the room were broken open. At that time Mr. Hermann Löwe, a court official who was living in the next house, happened to be returning home. When he was about to open the door of his flat, which is next to the door of the guard room, the French sentry near the Apostelkirche challenged him, at the same time firing a shot at him. Löwe was dangerously wounded and taken to the hospital where he died soon after. His wife witnessed the tragedy from the balcony of her house."

"On the 3rd of March, shortly after 11 o'clock at night, the engineer Ewald Dirks was dangerously wounded by a shot from a revolver, fired by a French soldier. He was taken to hospital where he died two days later. The soldier deserted."

"During the night of the 4th March Mr. Ludwig, a commercial clerk of Bochum, was killed with the bayonet by French soldiers."

"On the 19th of January the hospital attendant Kowalsi of Langendreer and on the 1st of February the miner Haumann of Brechten were shot by French sentries without cause. Both were unarmed and had walked quietly through the street."

"In the Oberhausen-Bohrbeck tram a Belgian soldier was asked to take a ticket. He drew his revolver and fired blindly among the passengers. Stockhorst, a boot-maker of Essen, was shot through the head and killed on the spot."

Police Official X., of Weeze, reports: "On the 28th of January we were on patrol duty in the neighbouring village. About half-past eleven at night we heard the sound of a shot near the end of Wasser Straße. In front of the public-house we found carpenter Eykmann lying in the street in a pool of blood. A Belgian patrol was standing about him. The leader of the patrol was busy with the wounded man. Eykmann had been shot

through the left leg, the right side of the lower portion of his back and through the anus. The Belgian corporal said he belonged to the Railway Station Patrol. As an excuse he mentioned that the soldier who had fired the fatal shot was a raw recruit who had only enlisted two months before. He should have fired into the air."

"On the 12th of February a French military policeman who was motoring to Gelsenkirchen with a second policeman killed the German police-sergeant Hutmacher, because the latter had stopped the car which had no lights. The fact that the two Frenchmen were slightly wounded by the German police, who in self-defence had come up to help their comrade, was taken as a reason by the French commander to send a punitive expedition into the town of Gelsenkirchen on the 13th of February. The Chief Burgomaster, the Second Burgomaster, the Prefect of Police, and the Director of the Reichsbank were taken as hostages. At the same time twenty-one German policemen were arrested and maltreated in an inhuman manner. As the municipality refused to pay the fine of one hundred million marks imposed, the French commander proceeded to take away all moneys, public or private funds, which could be found. Even pedestrians in the streets were stopped and the money they carried was taken away from them. This punitive expedition is against all national law, because not even in war time is it permissible to inflict penalties on the entire population for any act committed by individuals. The Prefect of Police is a member of the Prussian Diet and his arrest is a violation of the immunity of members of parliament recognized by all civilized countries."

Without Reason.

From the report of the Duisburg Law Courts of the 23rd of February, 1923: "The Police sergeant Hermann Luert was on duty during the night. Whilst talking to two civilians near the tram-stop in front of the railway station, five to six French soldiers armed with rifles suddenly rushed at the group of civilians who were waiting for a tram. One of the Frenchmen loaded his rifle and another one drew his revolver. In order to avoid a conflict the German policeman withdrew a few steps. The French soldiers now came running after him and called him to stop. The policeman turned round immediately and stopped. One French soldier put his bayonet to his chest. Luert warded the bayonet off and tried to run away. He had run for about five yards when a shot rang out and he fell to the ground. The bullet had entered the back of his head and issued through his forehead. The French soldiers dragged him into the railway station where he lay for half an hour on a straw mattress before he received medical attention."

"On the 15th of January, French soldiers at Bochum fired with rifles and machine-guns into a number of harmless pedestrians, who were walking in procession through the streets. The soldiers killed an apprentice by the name of Birwe, fifteen years of age, while Joraschkewitz, a workman, and the wife of Chief Engineer Stoter-Tillmann, who had not taken any part in the procession at all, were seriously wounded. Only after this had happened did the French commander forbid processions in the streets."

"On the 17th of February, French soldiers who wanted to take away fuel, battered in the gate of Prinzregent Colliery at Dortmund and fired with machine-guns into a crowd of workmen, who were unarmed. A workman Sieghard, fifteen years old, was killed on the spot, and another workman injured in the neck by a bullet."

Conclusions.

The Dutch Weekly "*De Haagsche Post*" publishes the following appeal by the well-known Dutch Poet, C. P. van Rossum:

"Let us be honest. The war has upset our mental balance; we have shouted ourselves hoarse and have screamed "pro" and cursed "anti". The dangerous state of this psychosis has passed; we have quieted down and go after our business; we are able to analyse our sentiments and our exaggerations. Sober reason demands its dues and takes us down a peg with just one word: Idiots! We have been passionately anti-German and have decried the Germans as Huns, Barbarians, and even worse. We have bowed low before "*La douce France*" and whenever one of us got a particularly severe fit, he would call out: "All of us have two Fatherlands, his own and France!" We had apportioned all the right to one side, and all the wrong to the other. In France we saw the ideal of humankind, and in the East the children of Satan !

Since then I have travelled a great deal in France and in Germany. And this truth has dawned upon my sober senses at last: The peoples of the West are neither angels nor devils. As human beings we western Europeans are at most the perfection of mediocrity. And are the Germans Barbarians? Great God! Who would still believe in that absurd myth! If one scrutinizes them closely, one will find in them virtues and faults; gifts and lack of gifts. But *Barbarians*? Let the French look up their own history relative to the conquest of Algeria in 1840 before stigmatizing a heroic people as Barbarians! We had placed the French upon a high pedestal, and were contemplating the reflection of our imagination with fondest affection. But to-day we cannot help sighing: Is *this* really our great idol?

We had introduced the Frenchman as an example of chivalry into our great modern romances. How often did we say: When they are victorious, they will show the world how a really cultured victor behaves. Victors they have now become; they invaded a peaceful country, occupied conquered territory, and might have set the world a splendid example of chivalry and humanity. And the result? The history of French occupation of Germany cries to the heavens; the reputation of a magnanimous and noble France is a myth; "victorious" they were, but not worthy to be victors.

What France is doing now in Germany is terrible beyond words. French arrogance, French terror, French atrocities, and French militarism strutting about in German army-boots. All French denials may be waived aside, for these are facts. The strongest proof is in the sentiment of the population in the occupied territory. Wherever you go, they curse the French from the bottom of their hearts. The hand of the Anglo-Saxon is heavy too, but it is the hand of a gentleman. But the French fist crushes out life, like the fist of a brutal victor."

Nothing need be added to these words of a neutral observer.



